

COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

R E P O R T

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

on the

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

County of Aberdeen

for the year

1958



COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

R E P O R T

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

on the

Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

County of Aberdeen

for the year

1958

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(For the Landward Area and all the Burghs)

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
1. Population (Estimated Civilian)	139,581	140,507	142,360
2. Persons married per 1,000 Population	6.5	7.0	6.8
3. Number of Live Births (Corrected)	2,483	2,407	2,509
4. Number of Still Births (Corrected)	40	49	63
5. Birth-rate per 1,000 Population	17.8	17.1	17.6
6. Still Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Births	16	20	24
7. Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births	5.4	4.7	5.3
8. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	19	22	21
9. Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	0.40	0.0	0.0
10. Number of Deaths from all Forms of Tuberculosis	1	6	10
11. Number of Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	6	9
12. Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 Population	0.01	0.04	0.06
13. Number of Deaths from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	1
14. Death-rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	0.0	0.0	0.01
15. Number of deaths (Corrected) All causes	1579	1530	1650
16. Death-rate - All causes	10.2	10.9	11.6
17. Deaths from Accidents in the Home (Provisional)	20	-	-
18. Death-rate from Accidents in the Home per 100,000 Population	14	-	-

SECTION A

Local Health Authority Functions

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children

There has been no alteration in the scheme for the care of mothers and young children which, as in former years, covers the whole county, including the Burghs.

(a) Infant Mortality

In 1958 there were 48 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 52 in 1957. Of these, 32 occurred within 4 weeks of birth and 16 from 4 weeks to 1 year.

The infant mortality rate as expressed per 1,000 live births was 19 compared with a rate of 28 for Scotland as a whole.

The causes of deaths of children under 4 weeks were as follows:-

Birth Injuries, Asphyxia and Atelectasis	17
Congenital Malformations	5
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	9
Total	<u>32</u>

The causes of deaths of children aged from 4 weeks to 1 year were as follows:-

Congenital Malformations	5
Pneumonia	4
Diarrhoea	3
All Other Causes	4
Total	<u>16</u>

Deaths of Children between 1 and 5 years

The number of children dying between the ages of 1 and 5 years was 9. The causes of deaths were as follows:-

Whooping Cough	1
Congenital Malformations	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Accidents in the Home	1
Other Violence	3
Bronchitis	1
Total	<u>9</u>

(b) Still Births

The number of still births registered and corrected for transfers during the year was 40, giving a rate of 16 per 1,000 total births, compared with a rate of 20 for the year 1957. The still-birth rate for the whole of Scotland in 1958 was 23.

(c) Maternal Mortality

During 1958, 1 death from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth was recorded. The cause of death was Obstetric Shock.

(d) Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

6 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, all cases being treated in the Puerperal Wards of Aberdeen City Hospital.

(e)/

(e) Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No case was notified during the year.

(f) Child Welfare Clinics

Eight Child Welfare Clinics are provided as follows:-

Ballater, Bucksburn, Culter, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Turriff.

With the exception of Ballater and Fraserburgh, which are staffed by General Practitioners, the County Council's Medical staff conduct all these clinics, assisted by Health Visitors or Health Visitor/District Nurses and voluntary workers. These ladies give the medical and nursing staff most valuable help and their services are very much appreciated.

During the year the County Council authorised the extension of the Clinic Service as follows:-

- (a) Bridge of Don. The construction of an entirely new Child Welfare Clinic with accommodation for medical and dental supervision and treatment, distribution of Welfare Foods and Health Education. Although not primarily intended for the purpose, ante-natal clinics can be held on the premises if necessary. Above the clinic a flat for the District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor is to be built.
- (b) Insch. The old Police Station which had become redundant has been purchased by the County Council and part of the premises is to be converted and adapted for Child Welfare purposes, including distribution of Welfare Foods.
- (c) Turriff. Again a redundant Police Station is to be converted to afford Child Welfare Clinic facilities in Turriff. This is not a new clinic but replaces the one at present held in St. Ninian's Church Hall, where the accommodation, being used for a variety of other purposes, is unsatisfactory.

Attendances at Clinics were as follows:-

Under 1 year of age

742 children made 6,276 attendances

One year of age and over

453 children made 3,496 attendances.

(g) Ante Natal Clinics

The Local Health Authority does not provide Ante Natal Clinics.

(h) Day Nursery, Peterhead

The proposal that the Day Nursery should become a combined Day Nursery and Nursery School has been agreed to by the Education Authority, but repeated advertisement for a Nursery School Teacher has failed to bring forward any applicant. The Nursery, therefore, still continues to function as in former years and, although the proposed combination has not been abandoned, it is meantime in abeyance. The attendances at the Day Nursery have increased considerably in recent years, and at the moment at any rate there is not the same urgency for economic reasons to effect the combination.

During the year 1958 the total number of attendances was 9184, the average daily attendance being 72% of total capacity.

(i)/

(i) Welfare Foods

During the year distribution of Welfare Foods proceeded satisfactorily. The uptake of National Dried Milk was high, as was the uptake of Orange Juice, especially during the winter months. The demand for Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin tablets, however, is extremely variable and is by no means 100 per cent.

The policy of closing small distribution centres where the distributor was not prepared to distribute a full range of foods and foodstuffs, or where the uptake was very small, has been continued and does not appear to have caused any hardship to the consumer. District Nurses, in the course of their ordinary visitations carry foodstuffs with them and thus bring the service to the more outlying parts of the county districts. This practice, whilst of great benefit to the consumer, does from time to time cause difficulties in accounting as, of necessity, foodstuffs may be handed over without receipt of a stamped token in exchange and frequently the coupon is forgotten about altogether.

(j) Dental Care

Throughout the year, despite repeated advertisement, it was not possible to bring the establishment of dental officers up to the present authorised maximum of six, only four full-time dentists being employed. This number is insufficient even for the needs of the school population and no attempt was made to provide an organised service for the dental care of mothers and young children. As and when possible, however, one session per week, conducted in association with a Welfare Clinic, was held, mainly for examination of patients rather than for treatment. There would appear to be no immediate likelihood of improving the situation.

(k) Prevention of Break-up of Families

The Council is fully aware of its responsibilities in this respect and wherever possible has made full use of its domestic help service to enable children to continue to live at home should their mother be temporarily incapacitated. In the landward area particularly, the demand exceeds by far the availability of Domestic Helps and there would seem to be no prospect of improving the situation. In respect of problem families, it seems that the most effective action lies in adequate assessment of persons of feeble-minded or lower categories and their proper care and supervision. Although ascertainment in Aberdeenshire is not yet complete, it improves as each succeeding generation reaches school age. Effective action in the care and supervision of children and adults so ascertained is handicapped considerably by the lack of places in Certified Institutions, as all mental defectives are not suitable for boarding out under guardianship, although of necessity guardianship has to be attempted.

The Health Visitor has done much valuable work in the field of the problem families and once she is accepted in the household, she can afford the family a great deal of assistance either directly through the resources of the local authority or by giving advice as to the statutory or voluntary body from which aid should be sought.

2. Midwifery

Although there is a continued reduction in the number of domiciliary confinements, the general arrangements for the provision of a domiciliary Midwifery Service have remained substantially unchanged.

Of the total of 2,523 live and still births, only 337 or 13.36% took place at home.

6,209 visits were paid to domiciliary maternity cases.

3. Health Visiting

There has been no change in the arrangements for Health Visiting during the year 1958. The Domiciliary Nursing staff paid home visits as follows:-

Number of Visits paid by Health Visitors during 1958										
Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 & 5		Tuberculous Cases		Other Cases		Total Visits paid
First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	
722	4,534	2,433	30,167	8,377	28,698	275	1,449	252	252	

4. Home Nursing

At the end of 1958 the Nursing Staff was as follows:-

1. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent	2
2. Nurses performing combined duties	50
3. Health Visitors - Full Time	7
4. Midwives - Full Time	2
5. Nurses performing general duties only	1
6. Nurses performing general and midwifery duties	2
Total	<u>64</u>

Of these, 49 nurses are living in premises set apart as nurses' houses, 12 are living in their own homes and 3 are in lodgings.

In the course of the year, 94,993 visits were paid to 5,446 cases. As the majority of these general cases are elderly persons, it would seem that the Home Nursing Service is a major factor in relieving pressure on hospitals. No special arrangements have been made in the shape of diluting or augmenting the Home Nursing Service by employing partly trained personnel to attend to the elderly, as this would be extremely difficult to do in an area such as Aberdeenshire. There are of course many other factors which decide whether or not a sick person should be admitted to hospital besides the availability or otherwise of a home nurse, but since the Home Nurses work in closest co-operation with the general practitioner in the area, it can be taken that if it is at all possible to nurse a patient at home, then the service is provided.

5. Domestic Help

In great measure, as originally organised, the Domestic Help Service did not provide the type of assistance required by the average elderly person living in his or her own home. They did not require the continuous services of a help for several hours at a time, but benefited more by frequent visits throughout the day and sometimes throughout the night. In order to adapt the service to these needs, the following arrangements have been made:-

- Employment of neighbours.
- Employment of relatives, if it were found that the relative had given up remunerative employment in order to care for the elderly person.
- Employment of residential home helps as a joint arrangement whereby the elderly person engaged the help in a residential capacity and the local authority assumed financial responsibility for the non-residential part of the service.

These/

These arrangements, although listed specifically here, are in fact extremely flexible and it is doubtful if they could be extended and yet remain within the general terms of reference of the Domestic Help Service. It is felt that they have been effective in keeping certain categories of elderly persons out of hospital, especially in the populous areas, but difficulty still arises in certain of the more remote parts, and in the case of elderly persons who will not agree under any circumstances to receive assistance from the local authority either through a domestic help or otherwise.

The work undertaken by the Domestic Help Service continues to increase although there is still great difficulty in obtaining suitable helpers. At the end of the year, 115 part-time Domestic Helps were in employment and during the year 252 cases had been attended. Of these, 52 were in respect of confinements either at home or in hospital and 116 were in respect of chronic sick or aged and infirm persons.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation

(a) Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year, 1,487 persons were vaccinated for the first time and 342 were revaccinated. Of the primary vaccinations, 1,403 were in respect of children born during the years 1957 and 1958. Again the vaccination rate is considered to be highly unsatisfactory.

There is reason to believe that general practitioners are carrying out many more vaccinations against smallpox than are being notified to the Medical Officer of Health but it is felt that it would be unwise to assess the vaccination state of the public by any method other than the factual notification of successful vaccination having taken place.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

No confirmed case of diphtheria was reported during the year 1958 and in fact no confirmed case of diphtheria has occurred in the County of Aberdeen during the past 5 years. The last occasion on which a case of diphtheria was notified was in 1953 when a mild case, which recovered completely, occurred.

Since 1956, however, the organised programme whereby schools were visited by a Medical Officer as a routine has been held in abeyance owing to the availability of poliomyelitis vaccine and the demand to have it administered. As a result, as the following table shows, only 1,700 children received a complete immunisation course during the year, and only 266 received a reinforcing inoculation.

These figures, although comparable with the figures for 1957, are considerably below the average and, moreover, are considerably below the number which ought to be given in order to maintain a safe immunisation rate. It is hoped, however, that by the summer of 1959 the programme of work connected with protection against poliomyelitis will have been completed and that it will be possible to revert to the programme of diphtheria immunisation.

Table/

Year of Birth	Number of Completed Immunisations			Number of Maintenance Inoculations			Immunised Persons Number of		Non-immunised Persons Number of	
	By G.Ps.	By L.A.	Total	By G.Ps.	By L.A.	Total	Confirmed cases of Diphtheria	Diphtheria Deaths	Confirmed cases of Diphtheria	Diphtheria Deaths
1958	385	45	430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	887	114	1001	33	1	34	-	-	-	-
1956	119	18	137	39	1	40	-	-	-	-
1955	32	16	48	8	7	15	-	-	-	-
1954	19	9	28	6	2	8	-	-	-	-
1953	19	6	25	65	46	111	-	-	-	-
1952	10	1	11	18	-	18	-	-	-	-
1951	7	-	7	6	2	8	-	-	-	-
1950	3	-	3	9	-	9	-	-	-	-
1949	4	-	4	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
1948	2	-	2	7	-	7	-	-	-	-
1947	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
1945	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
1943 or earlier	2	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Totals	1490	210	1700	207	59	266	-	-	-	-

(c) Immunisation against Poliomyelitis

During the year the programme for protection against poliomyelitis continued in a highly satisfactory manner and although the majority of inoculations were given by the County Council's medical staff, the general practitioners in the area co-operated to the full. By the end of 1958 it was estimated that a total of 32,567, representing approximately 80% of the eligible population had been protected.

The following table gives the numbers protected in the various eligible categories during the year.

Category	Number of Persons Vaccinated		
	by G.Ps.	by L.A.	Total
Children born in years 1943-1958	5,566	14,745	20,311
Young Persons born in years 1933-1942	166	-	166
Expectant Mothers	579	7	586
General Practitioners and families	133	43	176
Ambulance Staff and families	11	-	11
Hospital Staff and families	34	-	34
Totals	6,489	14,795	21,284

(d) Immunisation against Whooping Cough

During the year 1958, 1,692 children were protected against Whooping Cough, either by the use of Pertussis Vaccine alone, combined with Diphtheria, or with Diphtheria and Tetanus antigen. A further 254 received booster doses against pertussis, mostly in the form of a combined vaccine.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care

In general, the arrangements reported in previous years have been maintained.

(a) Chiropody

The Chiropody Clinic operated by the Aberdeenshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society, and which was established in the Clinic at Bucksburn during the year 1954, has continued to do much valuable work and the considerable expansion which began in 1956 has been maintained. At the end of 1958, 13 clinics conducted by the British Red Cross were operating in Aberdeenshire and 1 clinic operated by the Old People's Welfare Committee in the Burgh of Inverurie. To date the Inverurie Clinic has received no financial assistance from Aberdeen County Council but the Aberdeenshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society Chiropody Service has each year received a grant based on the operational costs.

It is proposed to extend these services still further in so far as available resources will allow and to co-ordinate the expansion a small committee consisting of County Council representatives and British Red Cross representatives has been formed. The County Council is most anxious that every assistance is given to further the chiropody service for old people, as the service is considered to be the major single contributory factor in keeping old people mobile and thereby out of hospital.

(b) Tuberculosis

The local authority scheme for providing B.C.G. vaccination to children of school leaving age was approved during the year and it is hoped to put it into operation during the autumn of 1959.

As in previous years, in conjunction with the Chest Physician, arrangements are made for the skin testing and inoculation of contacts and other persons considered to be at special risk. The general scheme for provision of extra nourishment in the form of milk, butter, meat and eggs is still in operation for cases of tuberculosis, as are arrangements for the loan of special articles of nursing equipment.

(c) Epileptics and Spastics.

There is no additional information concerning either epileptics or spastics to include in this year's report.

(d) Convalescent Home Provision

As in previous years, no convalescent home is maintained by the local authority, but the arrangement whereby children between the ages of 2 and 12 years are accommodated at Linn Moor Home, Culter, has been continued. Linn Moor Home, Culter, is administered by a voluntary body and each case maintained in the home is paid for by the County Council on a per capita basis. During the year 1958, the weekly charge for each child was £3:15/-d.

(e)/

(e) Prevention of Home Accidents

During the year, information was collected relative to the type of accident occurring in the average home where the results were sufficiently serious to warrant treatment by the Hospital Service, either as an in-patient or as an out-patient. As a result of the survey it was found that of 200 cases arising during the period October, 1957, to August, 1958, 130 were due to falls, and that the highest incidence occurred in females aged 65 and over. Burning and scalding formed only a minute percentage of the total. These findings were considered by the Nursing Sub-Committee of the County Council when it was agreed that the problem was not sufficiently serious to warrant a large scale prevention of accidents campaign. Contact was however made with the Women's Rural Institute, whose Secretary was provided with suitable propaganda material and leaflets, as were the local authority's own domiciliary nurses. The assistance of the Scottish Gas Board, Northern Division, was also offered and accepted. Additionally, suitable posters and leaflets were purchased and displayed in schools, clinics, County Council offices and other suitable premises, and the Director of Education was asked to show in schools suitable films or film strips.

It is proposed to continue to collect statistical information in order to ascertain whether or not the additional measures adopted by the Council have had any material effect on accidents arising in the home.

As a general reference to the occurrence of accidents in the home, it is felt that the majority arise, not through lack of knowledge as to how the accident should be prevented, but from an accumulation of circumstances which probably cannot be foreseen and which culminate in an accident taking place.

(f) Smoking and Lung Cancer

During the year 1958, 30 deaths from malignant diseases of the respiratory system occurred in Aberdeenshire, which gives a rate of 21.4 per 100,000 of the population, as compared to a rate of 45.9 per 100,000 of population for Scotland as a whole. These figures are in keeping with the findings for previous years and it is evident that the general increase in cancer of the lung is not entirely applicable to Aberdeenshire. The reason for this is by no means clear but it is proposed to investigate, amongst other things, the smoking habits of the people of Aberdeenshire in conjunction with the College of General Practitioners.

In relation to the arrangements made by the local authority to publicise the connection between tobacco smoking and cancer of the lung, the matter was considered by the appropriate committee of the County Council and also by the Joint Advisory Co-ordinating Committee. It was decided that the most effective way of dealing with the situation was to concentrate on children of school leaving age and on others who might be expected not to have acquired the smoking habit. Accordingly, a full distribution of publicity material was made to the appropriate schools in the county and to Leaders of Youth Organisations, and arrangements were made for talks on the subject of Smoking and Lung Cancer to be given to young persons in these groups. No attempt has been made to date other than by the notices which have appeared in the national press to carry the subject to the people of Aberdeenshire in general.

(g) Early Ascertainment of Defects of Vision

This subject is dealt with in the report on the School Health Service which forms a separate section of this annual report.

8. Control of Infectious Diseases

As in the years 1954 and 1955, Whooping Cough again showed a marked increase in incidence after a two-year interval during which incidence was extremely low. Since it became notifiable in 1950, the pattern in Aberdeenshire has been 1, 2 or 3 years of high incidence, followed by 1 or perhaps 2 when few cases seemed to occur. The reason for this is not clear but it does not appear to be associated with the immunisation programme which began in 1947 and which has been maintained at a fairly steady level ever since.

No other disease showed an unusual incidence, nor assumed epidemic proportions.

Again no case of smallpox, cholera, plague or typhus fever was reported during the year, but 1 case of typhoid fever, which proved fatal, was notified.

The incidence of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis remained low, only 3 cases being notified during the year and in fact, during the past 4 years, only 16 cases have occurred. This low incidence cannot be attributed entirely to the success of the immunisation programme as in 1955, before immunisation started, only 2 cases occurred and in 1956 and 1957, when only certain selected groups of the population had been protected, only 5 and 6 cases occurred respectively. The following table gives for comparative purposes the number of notifications of infectious diseases received year by year for the past 5 years.

Disease	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Whooping Cough	432	353	69	55	320
Scarlet Fever	136	96	82	42	84
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	36	23	19	14	13
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia - Acute Influenzal	7	9	14	92	3
Acute Primary	103	78	89	98	129
Not otherwise notifiable	152	112	135	130	78
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	2	1	-
Puerperal Fever	1	2	3	3	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	1	2	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	1	1
Paratyphoid - A	-	-	-	-	-
B	2	1	1	-	-
Dysentery	46	197	23	81	30
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	23	2	5	6	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	5	-	6	2	4
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	72	52	63	54	33
Non respiratory	30	18	17	15	20
Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	7	2	3	1	1
Continued Fever	-	-	-	-	1
Undulant Fever	2	3	3	2	1
Food Poisoning	1	-	36	20	14
Others (not notifiable)	2	2	7	1	-
Total (Excluding Tuberculosis)	963	884	498	551	690
Total (Including Tuberculosis)	1065	954	578	620	743

9. Mental Health Service

There has been no major change in the constitution of the Mental Health Service during the year and, as in previous years, the bulk of the work has again been undertaken by the County Council's Area Officers who are authorised for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy Acts.

During the year, 161 cases of mental defectives were boarded out with 140 guardians. During the same period, 86 cases were removed to the Royal Mental Hospital, Aberdeen, by the County Council's staff of Authorised Officers.

The liaison between the local authority and the Regional Hospital Board reported in previous years has been maintained and the services of Dr. Moore Taylor, a Psychiatric Consultant of the Regional Board, are still available and are made full use of.

Extreme difficulty, however, has been experienced in finding suitable guardians for mental defectives and in finding institutional accommodation for cases who are totally unfit for guardianship or who, by reason of a domestic crisis, are required to be cared for in alternative accommodation, usually for a temporary period. The Local Health Authority has considered the situation and the question of offering greatly increased monetary allowances to guardians is meantime being examined. The findings to date, however, suggest that increased allowances are no real incentive for guardians to come forward and it must be assumed that people in general do not wish to take a mental defective under their charge.

The need for setting up a form of boarding-house or "place of safety" for mental defectives in an emergency has also been under consideration but so far no solution to the problem has been found.

10. Work under Nurseries and Child-Minders' Regulation Act

One application for registration of a Nursery Class was made under the above Act during the year. Registration was recommended, subject to certain minor alterations and additions being made to the premises, and these alterations were agreed to by the applicant. By the end of the year, however, not all the work had been carried out and the official certificate of registration had accordingly not been issued.

SECTION B

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

1. General Statistics

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139,581
Number of Schools:-								
(a) Nursery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
(b) Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
(c) (I) Special Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(II) Special classes at ordinary schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Number of children on the registers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,093

2. Sanitary conditions of Schools

Approved schemes of work at specified schools designed to improve the (a) Sanitary arrangements, (b) heating, (c) lighting, (d) furnishings, (e) internal and external paintwork and (f) surface of playgrounds all progressed satisfactorily. The new extension at Inverurie Academy was opened and the new primary school at Buchanhaven will be ready for occupation after the summer vacation. Among the major school extension schemes now in progress are those at the following schools - Fraserburgh Academy, Peterhead Academy, The Gordon Schools, Huntly, Alford, Kintore and Rosehearty Schools. During the period under review the general standard of cleanliness, internally and externally, of the County School buildings noted at the routine medical inspection visits was satisfactory and well maintained despite the difficulties still experienced in a few schools in the remote areas in obtaining the service of school cleaners.

3. Organisation and Administration

A. System and Extent of Medical Inspection and Treatment

The scheme of medical inspection during the school year 1957-58 was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in D.H.S. Circular No. 65/1957. This consisted of the systematic medical examination of the four routine age-groups of children, namely infant entrants, 9, 13 and 16 year olds; the examination of the 7 year old pupils for acuity of vision and hearing; the medical examination of children attending the Fraserburgh Nursery School and St. Andrew's School, Inverurie, and the ascertainment and assessment of the degree of defect present among pupils handicapped by physical and mental defects. A directive contained in D.H.S. Circular No. 43/1957 to test the vision of five year old entrants was included in the routine medical inspection of pupils in this age-group for the first time. The Pugmire and Sheridan revised vision screening chart was the visual test selected for this purpose. Special cases, not falling within the above specified age-groups and referred to the visiting school medical officers, were also examined. Pupils who, at the previous inspection, were found to have defects requiring to be kept under observation, or requiring to be treated, were re-examined. The usual cordial invitation was extended to parents or guardians to be present at the medical inspection of their children. Audiometric testing by the Pure Tone Audiometer (P.T.A.) of pupils born in the years 1952, 1950 and 1947 was carried out routinely at schools by a whole-time audiometrician, a statement on which appears under heading 10 of this report.

The scheme for hospital and specialist services, approved of and adopted by the North Eastern Regional Hospital Board, functioned satisfactorily during the year.

B. System and Extent of Dental Inspection and Treatment

The School Dental Staff still remains two short of the authorised establishment of six. Details of the work completed under the school dental scheme will be found in Section 7 of the report.

C. School Nursing and Arrangements for "Following-up"

All nursing duties in connection with the school Health Service are undertaken by the 55 nurses employed by the County Council. Their duties in respect of medical inspection, treatment and "following-up" of children at school and at their homes, as well as those in respect of diphtheria immunisation, poliomyelitis vaccination and assistance at Dental and Eye Clinics are detailed in memoranda circulated to each of them. The two Health Visitors in the Burghs of Fraserburgh and Peterhead are in attendance daily on school days at the respective Minor Ailments Clinics. During the year the nurses spent a total of 4,127 hours at schools and at homes of pupils.

D. Co-ordination with the Public Health Services and other Local Authority Departments

There is nothing further to add to the statement made on previous years under this heading.

E. Co-operation with other Bodies or Outside Agencies

Details under this heading can be found in the 1951 Annual Report.

F. Co-operation with Teachers and Parents

It is again pleasing to record that excellent relations continue to exist between the teaching staff and School Medical, Dental and Nursing Staffs. Grateful acknowledgement is made of their willing co-operation and assistance at the routine medical and dental inspections, audiometric group testing, visits made under the Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis Immunisation Schemes and in other matters pertaining to the health and welfare of pupils.

The attendance of parents at the systematic inspections of their children at school is still an unsatisfactory feature of the County School Health Service. The number of parents who attended this year, namely 844, equal to 12.4% of the children examined, was a decrease of 2.4% as compared with last year. The presence of parents at a routine examination is of value particularly among younger children, where further information regarding the medical history of the child is required. Moreover, such an interview affords the School Medical Officer an opportunity to proffer advice as to the treatment of any defect found and to discuss simple rules of health from which the child would likely benefit.

5. The Findings of Medical Inspection

The total number of children in the four age-groups examined systematically at the routine medical inspection was 6,763 - a decrease of 394 as compared with the previous year. Of this total, 3,429 were boys and 3,334 girls; to this number have to be added (a) 17 boys and 13 girls routinely examined at the Fraserburgh Nursery School, (b) 12 boys and 9 girls examined at St. Andrew's Special School, and (c) 1,122 boys and 1,050 girls, born in the year 1950, examined for acuity of vision and hearing only, making a grand total of 8,986 pupils - a decrease of 402 from last year.

The number of children who were presented to the School Medical Officers as special cases by Head Teachers during the routine visits was 247 while the number of re-examinations was 3,645. Compared with last year, these totals show decreases of 68 and 297 in the number of special cases and re-inspections respectively. Of the children systematically examined/

examined, 966 were notified to parents as having defects requiring treatment. Details of the number of children examined and the number of children recommended for treatment in the various age-groups will be found in Table I of this report.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of boys and girls measured in the routine age groups of pupils examined.

Age Group	Number Measured	Average Age		Average Heights (Ins.)	Average Weight (Lbs.)
		Years	Months		
Nursery	8	3	2	36.0	33.5
Boys Group I	1098	5	5	43.6	45.4
Group II	1248	9	5	52.2	67.8
Group III	994	13	5	60.0	98.1
Group IV	86	16	9	68.1	142.5
Nursery	11	3	2	37.4	34.5
Girls Group I	1052	5	5	43.3	43.4
Group II	1161	9	5	51.8	66.4
Group III	1004	13	5	59.9	102.5
Group IV	116	16	9	63.0	125.5

The recorded average heights of boys and girls in the five age-groups show only a little variation either way compared with the previous year's results, the one exception being in the boys of age group IV where there was an average increase of 1.7" in height. With regard to the average weights, boys in age group IV showed an average increase of 5.1 lbs., while the girls in age groups II, III, and IV increases of 1.6, 2.0, and 3.7 lbs. respectively were recorded compared with last year. For the year under review, the height and weight findings can again be viewed with satisfaction.

The following is a tabulated statement showing the number and percentage of children recorded at the routine medical inspections as suffering from specific defects, diseases or disabilities. The percentages for the previous year are also given for the purpose of comparison. The detailed results and sex distribution of the defects found in each of the four age-groups are shown in Table II at the end of this report.

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1956-1957
1. Clothing unsatisfactory	6763	108	1.5	1.3
2. Footgear unsatisfactory	"	7	.1	0.2
3. Uncleanliness unsatisfactory:				
(a) Head	"	45	.6	0.7
(b) Body	"	113	1.6	1.5
(c) Head and Body	"	-	-	-
4. Skin:				
(a) Head - Ringworm	"	4	.05	0.01
Impetigo	"	3	.04	0.1
Other Diseases	"	74	1.0	0.7
(b) Body - Ringworm	"	6	.08	0.05
Impetigo	"	4	.05	0.08
Scabies	"	4	.05	0.05
Other Diseases	"	284	4.2	4.5
5./				

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1956-1957
5. Nutritional State:				
Slightly defective	6763	198	2.9	3.01
Bad	"	15	.2	0.09
6. Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	"	200	2.9	2.9
7. Naso-pharynx:				
(a) Nose - (1) Obstruction requiring observation	"	137	2.02	2.4
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	"	52	.7	0.4
(3) Other conditions	"	40	.5	0.4
(b) Tonsils - (1) Requiring observation	"	270	3.9	4.6
(2) Requiring treatment	"	97	1.4	1.2
(c) Glands - (1) Requiring observation	"	193	2.8	2.7
(2) Requiring treatment	"	74	1.09	0.4
8. Eyes:				
(a) External Diseases -				
Blepharitis	"	31	0.4	0.8
Strabismus	"	70	1.03	0.8
Other Diseases	"	86	1.2	1.7
(b) Visual acuity with/without glasses -				
(i) Fair	8935	921	10.3	10.4
(ii) Bad	"	134	1.4	1.2
(c) Recommended for refraction	"	793	8.8	8.7
9. Ears:				
(a) Diseases -				
Otorrhoea	6763	17	0.2	0.4
Other	"	59	0.8	0.7
(b) Defective Hearing -				
Grade I	8935	52	0.5	0.8
Grade IIa	"	34	0.3	0.3
Grade IIb	"	-	-	-
Grade III	"	-	-	-
10. Speech -				
(a) Defective articulation	6763	53	0.7	0.8
(b) Stammering	"	34	0.5	0.3
11./				

Nature of Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective	Percentage Defective 1956-1957
11. Mental and Nervous Condition -				
(a) Backward	6763	43	0.6	0.6
(b) Dull	"	19	0.2	0.3
(c) Mentally deficient (educable)	"	10	0.1	0.1
(d) Mentally deficient (ineducable)	"	-	-	-
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	"	27	0.4	0.2
(f) Difficult behaviour	"	61	0.9	0.3
12. Circulatory System -				
(a) Organic Heart Disease -				
(i) Congenital	"	27	0.4	0.4
(ii) Acquired	"	9	0.1	0.09
(b) Functional conditions	"	40	0.5	0.3
13. Lungs -				
Chronic bronchitis	"	48	0.7	0.3
Suspected tuberculosis	"	17	0.2	0.1
Other diseases	"	87	1.2	1.3
14. Deformities -				
(a) Congenital	"	155	2.2	1.9
(b) Acquired - Infantile Paralysis	"	4	0.05	0.1
(c) Acquired - Probable Rickets	"	12	0.1	0.09
(d) Acquired - Other causes	"	88	1.3	1.3
15. Infectious Diseases	"	8	0.1	0.2
16. Other diseases or defects	"	238	3.5	3.6

After perusal of the above findings it will be noted that the percentage of the various defects enumerated are substantially the same as those recorded the previous year, the difference, if any, being less than 1% either way.

Among the other diseases or defects under item 16 above, the following is a statement of the nature and frequency of the main conditions found:-

Enuresis - 22;	Sprains, Injuries, etc. - 18;	Rheumatism - 12;
Epilepsy - 15;	Hernia - 8;	Obesity - 10;
Nephritis - 5;	Undescended Testicle - 7;	Chorea - 4;
Anaemia - 6;	Enlarged thyroid gland - 4;	Diabetes - 3;
Pes Planus - 3;	Hydrocele - 3.	

The number of defects found among the 30 children - 17 boys and 13 girls - routinely examined at Fraserburgh Nursery School was as follows:-

Cleanliness (Head) - 2;	Eczema - 2;	Slight Knock Knee - 1;
Stammer - 1;	Enuresis - 2;	Strabismus - 1;
Urticaria - 1;	Nutrition Slightly Defective - 1.	

The/

The number of children re-examined at the Nursery School was 9.

The examination of the seven year old age-group was confined to testing the acuity of vision and hearing. Of the 1122 boys and 1050 girls examined in this group, 117 boys and 146 girls were found to have visual defects and these were classified as follows:-

	<u>Fair Vision</u>	<u>Bad Vision</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boys	95	22	117
Girls	<u>125</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>146</u>
Totals	<u>220</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>263</u>

The number of boys and girls recommended for refraction was 78 and 91 respectively.

The acuity of hearing in the seven year old group was tested, by the Conversational Voice Test and/or by the Pure Tone Audiometer and any hearing loss found was classified into three grades defined in N.M. & C. Circular No. 60/1938. Of the 1122 boys tested, 11 had a Grade I and 6 a Grade IIa deafness. The findings for the 1050 girls tested were 4 Grade I and 3 with a Grade IIa hearing loss.

At St. Andrew's School, Inverurie, for the mentally handicapped, 12 boys and 9 girls were medically examined and the following is a note of the diseases or defects found in addition to their being mentally subnormal:-

Alopecia - 1; Mouth Unhealthy - 2; Nose (requiring observation) - 1; Tonsils (requiring observation) - 2; Tonsils (requiring treatment) - 2; Glands (requiring observation) - 1; Strabismus - 1; Fair Vision - 4; For refraction - 3; Old Otitis media - 1; Def. Articulation - 1; Behaviour difficulties - 1; Organic Heart (congenital) - 1; Chronic bronchitis - 1; Old spina bifida - 1; Mongolism - 3; Spastic diplegia - 2.

Table III shows that 66.2% of the pupils routinely examined were found to be free from defects - a decrease of 0.6% compared with last year. The findings of medical inspection again indicate that the health and physical development of Aberdeenshire school children have been well maintained during the year under review.

Examinations conducted by the Medical Staff
other than routine school examinations

(1)	Absentee children or irregular attenders	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Necessitous children	...	...	...	...	5
(3)	Examinations of handicapped pupils -					
	(a) physically handicapped	...	...	...	...	123
	(b) mentally handicapped	...	...	...	...	52
	(c) maladjusted	...	...	...	...	11
	(d) deaf and partially deaf	...	...	...	...	7
	(e) epileptic	...	...	...	...	1
	(f) speech defects	...	...	...	...	59
(4)	Certification of ineducable children to the General Board of Control	...	...	...	...	3
(5)	Examinations under Children and Young Persons Acts -					
	(a) Juvenile delinquents	...	...	...	...	7
	(b) Guardianship cases	...	...	...	...	223
(6)	Disabled Persons (Employment) Act	...	...	...	...	10
(7)	Examination of Students in preliminary training for the teaching profession	...	...	...	...	-
(8)/						

(8)	Examination of pupils prior to stay in holiday camps	345
(9)	Examination of County Council Staff - (teachers, janitors, school cleaners, clerical staff, etc.)	241
(10)	Examination of pupils for admission to Linn Moor Home ...	29
(11)	Examination of children at Rudolf Steiner Schools for other Local Authorities	6
(12)	Diphtheria Immunisation -	
	(a) Number of children receiving two initial inoculations	207
	(b) Number of children re-inoculated	36
(13)	<u>Poliomyelitis Immunisation</u> -	
	(a) Number of children receiving two initial inoculations	19,515
	(b) Number of children receiving first inoculation	717

6. Medical Treatment

Minor Ailments

The Minor Ailments Clinics established at Fraserburgh and Peterhead continued to function as in previous years. During the year under review, 53 new cases were treated at these clinics, involving a total of 212 attendances. The particulars of the conditions treated are shown in the following table:-

Nature of Defect	Minor Ailments Clinic		Nurses Follow-up		Totals	
	Fraserburgh	Peterhead	Local Authority	Private	Local Authority	Private
(1) Cuts, bruises, sprains and minor ailments	11	7	10	6	28	6
(2) Diseases of the ear	3	-	4	4	7	4
(3) Diseases of the eye (excluding defective vision)	-	1	3	3	4	3
(4) Diseases of the skin:						
(a) Ringworm (scalp) -						
X-ray treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other treatment	-	-	-	3	-	3
(b) Ringworm (body)	-	-	-	6	-	6
(c) Scabies	-	-	2	5	2	5
(d) Impetigo	15	1	6	6	22	6
(5) Other diseases	13	2	70	46	85	42

B. Defective Vision and Squint

The following is a statistical summary of the pupils examined by Dr. Fiona Bennett, County School Oculist, and of the nature of the eye defects/

defects found during the year under review:-

Number of pupils examined:	Boys	492
	Girls	<u>630</u>
	Total	<u>1122</u>

Number of spectacles supplied:	Boys	242
	Girls	<u>313</u>
	Total	<u>555</u>

Analysis of Refractive Errors:-

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	150	181	331
Hypermetropia	140	146	286
Mixed Astigmatism	39	88	127
Myopia	127	144	271
Myopic Astigmatism	36	71	107

Pathological Conditions met with were:-

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Right convergent strabismus	14	18	32
Left convergent strabismus	14	21	35
Alternating strabismus	3	7	10
Right divergent strabismus	1	-	1
Left divergent strabismus	2	2	4
Other pathological conditions	4	7	11

Highly Myopic Children

A list of children with high degrees of myopia is maintained by the School Oculist. It is essential that such children should be kept under supervision and examined annually.

C. Nose and Throat Operative Treatment

School children requiring operative treatment for nose and throat defects were referred to the family doctor. For a number of years there has been a long waiting list for tonsil and adenoid operations, but this has now been considerably reduced.

D. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

The monthly Orthopaedic Clinics held at Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Huntly, and conducted by the North-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, continued to function as in the past. Hospital and Specialist treatment, as well as orthopaedic appliances, special boots and artificial limbs, where required, were all provided by the Board. The number of school children who attended and were examined at these Clinics during the year was as follows:-

	<u>No. of Attendances</u>	<u>No. of New Patients</u>
Fraserburgh Orthopaedic Clinic	77	23
Peterhead Orthopaedic Clinic	64	18
Huntly Orthopaedic Clinic	47	16

Advice and instruction in remedial exercises for correcting postural defects found in school children were undertaken by trained physical instructors on the County Education Staff who also gave special instruction in physical exercises to selected cases suffering from severe attacks of asthma.

7. Dental Inspection and Treatment

Staff

The shortage of qualified dental surgeons is still being felt acutely, and especially so in the school dental service.

Although the number of dental students has risen in the past year, the shortage will affect the staffing of the school service for many years to come.

During the past three years the dental staff in the County has remained at the level of four full-time dental officers, one part-time dental officer and two dental attendants.

The best that can be hoped for is that this level will be maintained. In view of the prevailing shortage of qualified staff, the appointment of a third dental attendant is now a necessity.

Clinics - Accommodation

There are now five clinics in the County, one each at the following centres: - Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Huntly, Inverurie and Bucksburn. Those at Peterhead, Huntly and Inverurie are well equipped and are in use as much as possible with the staff available and an effort is made to use them at least once per week throughout the school year. The present clinic in Fraserburgh has never been very satisfactory and with the completion of the new academy buildings there, the equipment will be transferred to the dental room in the new building, and it is expected that this will prove to be more convenient for operation.

Lack of accommodation in schools is still a hindrance to regular routine visits, especially in some of the larger schools and also where reconstruction is going on. Again some schools have had to be omitted for a year from routine visits owing to reconstruction, and in the case of a large school this means that a considerable number of children are denied dental service.

The question of employing a mobile dental unit is under consideration at present and it is hoped that it will soon be in operation to augment the clinic facilities. If any further argument is required in it's favour, it would overcome the difficulty of accommodation at schools when reconstruction is being carried out.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

With the present staff able to provide a dental service for only half the school population, no routine service is offered to mothers and young children; if it were it would be at the expense of those children at present being catered for. During the year, 19 pre-school children were given emergency treatment.

Orthodontics

Pupils requiring orthodontic treatment, other than by extraction, are referred to the local consultant or a private practitioner.

Dental Health

It is now on record officially that the incidence of caries has risen since the end of the war. This coincides with an increase per head in the consumption of sweets and sugar in this country and it seems that the carbohydrate intake in between meals is mainly responsible. The consumption of special foods such as cod liver oil and orange juice has evidently had very little effect.

Some bodies, notably the General Dental Council and the Oral Hygiene Service, are making headway with propaganda on dental health, and an enlightened B.B.C. is now allowing more frequent broadcasts. It is apparent, however, that much more intensive propaganda requires to be directed/

directed towards parents and this is gradually being realised by those responsible for this propaganda.

If parents are sufficiently well educated in dental health, the children will benefit both by instruction and imitation.

In four secondary schools in England recently, a scheme of dental education was carried out over a period of ten months - the response was poor.

A national effort, sponsored by the appropriate Government Department, is required, somewhat on the lines of the children's Dental Health Week observed annually in America.

Table V is attached, which gives an account of the work done during the year.

There are 208 schools in the County and of these, 108 were inspected and 115 treated - some schools inspected during the previous year were not treated until the beginning of this school year. While the numbers inspected are approximately the same as last year, slightly fewer schools were included as more of the larger secondary schools were inspected and treated this year.

Schools receiving regular dental service are visited once every fifteen months and with present staff, to include more schools in the routine service would mean lengthening the period between visits considerably, and this period is, at the moment, long enough.

Fifty-six per cent of those children inspected required some form of treatment. The ratio of fillings to extractions in permanent teeth continues to be very satisfactory. Last year it was just over 3.1 and this year it is almost 3.1.

The proportion of treatment sessions compared with inspection sessions is also very good, remaining at over 4.1.

Under heading number 10 on the table it is only possible, of course, to give the number opting for private treatment - not the number actually treated by private practitioners, and only about 50% of those opting do receive regular private treatment.

The number refusing treatment of any kind is very small - about 3%.

In addition to the work shown on Table V, four crowns and three inlays were inserted and during the year there were periodic visits to Linn Moor Home.

8. Special Schools and Classes

No further local special school provision other than St. Andrew's School, Inverurie, has been made by the Education Authority for the special educational treatment of mentally handicapped children. The number of mentally handicapped children for whom special educational provision has at present been made is as follows:-

	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
St. Andrew's School, Inverurie	27
Domiciliary Education	7
Baldovan Institution, Dunce	2
Rudolph Steiner Schools, Milltimber ...	3
Beechwood School, Aberdeen	19
Rubislaw Occupational Centre, Aberdeen ...	14
St. Joseph's Special School, Cranleigh, Surrey	1
Roffey House School, Horsham, Sussex ...	1

A few special classes for retarded or backward children have been formed in some of the larger schools where the numbers warrant such a provision and the/

the teaching facilities are available.

Apart from 15 children who are receiving domiciliary education, the special provision made for the education of physically handicapped pupils is shown in the following statement:-

<u>Nature of Defect</u>	<u>Institution or Special School</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
(a) Blind	The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh	3
(b) Partially Sighted	Beechwood School, Aberdeen	1
(c) Deaf	Donaldson's School for the Deaf, Edinburgh	1
	Polmuir Special School, Aberdeen	15
(d) Epilepsy	Beechwood School, Aberdeen	1
	Camphill Rudolph Steiner Schools, Milltimber	1
(e) Other Physical Defects	Beechwood School, Aberdeen	7
	Challenger Lodge Children's Home, Edinburgh	1
	St. Andrew's School, Inverurie	6

Speech Therapy

Miss Alexandra McCartney, the second County Speech Therapist, resigned and the services of only one speech therapist was available during the whole of the period under review. Owing to the restricted facilities, it was not possible to continue treatment at the Fraserburgh, Turriff and Huntly clinic centres. Recently, however, two additional speech therapists have been appointed, one to take up duty at the commencement of the winter term and the other early next year. It is hoped that with the extra staff the leeway in the treatment of pupils with speech defects will soon be overtaken.

The following is a tabulated statement submitted by Mrs. Murray, the County Speech Therapist, showing (1) the number of new cases accepted for treatment, (2) the number of cases under treatment and (3) the number of cases discharged respectively at the seven clinic centres during the year under review:-

<u>Clinic Centre</u>	<u>No. of New Cases</u>	<u>No. of cases under treatment</u>	<u>No. of Cases discharged</u>
Fraserburgh	-	-	2
Peterhead	7	15	7
Ellon	6	9	6
Garioch	10	16	12
Turriff	-	-	-
Aberdeen	35	39	33
Huntly	-	-	1
Totals	58	79	61

9. Arrangements for Physical Education and Personal Hygiene

The following is a summary of the school activities under this heading submitted by Mr. Pollock, County Supervisor of Physical Education, for the period under review:-

Staffing.

There are fully qualified teachers in Physical Education at all larger schools in the County and uncertificated teachers fill the circuits involving visits/

visits to several of the smaller schools. There has been an improvement in the supply of suitably qualified female teachers, seven having been added to the staff in the last two years, thus allowing the replacement of some uncertificated teachers. It is encouraging to learn that interest in taking up physical education work has grown considerably in our schools and that several boys have been interviewed and some accepted for training at Jordanhill College, Glasgow.

Swimming

The Peterhead swimming Bath is the main County centre for swimming instruction and 14 schools send pupils there every week throughout the session. Aberdeen Baths are visited by three schools and the Gordon Schools, Huntly, send pupils in the summer term to Elgin.

In session 1957-58, 84 proficiency certificates were awarded.

Athletics

The annual inter-school athletic meetings, in which 33 schools took part, were held as usual in the Deeside, Peterhead, Aberdeen, Garioch, Turriff and Fraserburgh areas. The inter-area finals this year took place at Bankhead School playing fields, and Aberdeen area emerged winners of the Waterton Trophy for the sixth time. The Senior Secondary Schools Athletic Championship between the Gordon Schools, Huntly, and Inverurie Academy had to be abandoned because of bad weather.

Games

Golf was added this year to the programme of inter-school competitions. Four pupils from each of the six Senior Secondary Schools played one match round at Craigewan Golf Course, Peterhead, and the lowest aggregate score determined the winners of the "Kyle Cup". Ellon Academy was the first holder of this trophy.

Lumphanan School won the five-a-side football tournament for Junior Secondary Schools, while Torphins were winners of the Netball tournament. Fraserburgh Academy was awarded the Balmoral Trophy for the best all round performance among Senior Secondary Schools, having won both the football and hockey leagues.

Camping

There is a steady demand for week-ends at the County's Hill Walking Centre at Inverey School, mostly from Junior Secondary Schools, but recently the Senior Secondary Department of Peterhead and Inverurie Academies have shown interest in the facilities available for out of door work and recreation at this centre.

Health Education

Specialist teachers include lessons on Health Education at regular intervals throughout each term's programme of work. These lessons are given practical application whenever possible and pupils are encouraged to cultivate good habits in personal and public hygiene. Provision of spray baths in a few gymnasias, recently built, will afford additional enjoyment and ensure maximum benefit from a physical training lesson. The new primary school syllabus of physical education contains a series of foot corrective exercises which should be helpful if properly carried out.

10. Other Activities in Relation to Health of School Children

(a) Audiometry

It will be recalled from last year's report that a whole-time audiometrician was appointed to undertake future annual routine audiometric work of testing the infant entrants, 7 and 10 year olds at the County Schools.

At the 90 schools visited, 3,947 pupils - 1,982 boys and 1,965 girls - born in the years 1952, 1950 and 1947 had their hearing screened by the Pure Tone Audiometer (P.T.A.) using the "sweep" test method. Of this number/

number, 293 or 7.4% were retested or "threshold" tested, as their initial test result was considered unsatisfactory. The following table shows the incidence of pupils with normal and defective hearing found as a result of the audiometric tests carried out at the schools visited during the year.

Hearing Grade	Boys		Girls		Both Sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Normal	1936	97.7	1925	98.0	3861	97.82
Grade I	44	2.2	40	2.0	84	2.13
Grade IIa	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.05
Grade IIb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade III	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1982	100.0	1965	100.0	3947	100.0

It will be seen from the above table that, of the pupils tested, 84 or 2.13% of them were classified as having a Grade I defect in hearing, while 2 or 0.05% had a Grade IIa hearing loss. There were no pupils with a Grade IIb or Grade III hearing loss in the age groups tested, as pupils with these defects were already receiving special educational treatment in special schools for deaf children.

Of the 1982 boys routinely tested, 46 were found to have hearing defects, 2.2% and 0.1% of these being classified as Grade I and Grade IIa defects respectively. The corresponding figures for the girls were 1,965 tested, with 40 or 2.0% defective and all these were Grade I hearing losses. Six pupils in whom marked defect was found were referred to the Regional Deafness Clinic for further investigation and treatment.

One hundred and seventy-eight pupils - not of the routine age groups - were tested as special cases because some doubt had been expressed concerning their hearing acuity. Of these, 8 were classified as Grade IIa cases, 31 as Grade I, while the remainder had normal hearing.

It may be of interest to note that 22 pupils suffering from severe degrees of deafness have been fitted with hearing aids.

(b) Sex Education in Schools

One course in Sex Education was given by Miss Duncan in March, 1958. The schools involved were Aboyne (48 girls), Ballater (50 girls) and Torphins (35 girls).

(c) Courses in First Aid and Home Nursing

Intensive courses of instruction in First Aid and Home Nursing for senior pupils attending the Senior Secondary Schools were held as usual during the summer session. Local Practitioners and trained nurses conducted the courses in First Aid and Home Nursing at five centres. Two hundred and eight boys and girls attended the systematic and practical course in First Aid, while 109 girls took the Home Nursing Course.

(d) School Meals Service

The School Meals Service in Aberdeenshire is now a well-established integral part of the ordinary school routine. The success of the Scheme depends in no small measure on the help given by Head Teachers and their assistants, who give up part of their luncheon interval for supervisory duties during meals.

The following is a statement showing the present number of kitchens/

kitchens and dining halls in use:-

(a) Kitchens

Number of kitchens supplying meals to more than one school	46
Number of individual kitchens	28

(b) Dining Halls

Number of specially constructed dining halls in use	64
Number in course of erection	1
Number of conversions	67
Number of class rooms in use	63
Number of Hired Halls	6

The number of schools at which two course meals are served is 199, which is a decrease of 3 schools over last year. In the remaining 9 County schools, namely Auchmedden, Ellon Academy, Fraserburgh Central, Fraserburgh North, Fraserburgh Episcopal, Garmond, Port Elphinstone, Rosehearty, Sandhaven and Savoch, no two-course meals are served.

The average number of two-course meals served daily was 10,741. The standard charge per meal, which became operative from 1st April, 1957, was 1/-d. per head and in cases of large families partaking meals, 11d. for the second child and 10d. for the third and subsequent members. Six hundred and seventy-four two-course meals were supplied free of charge to necessitous children on medical grounds. Besides this, 45 pupils attending Ellon Academy were supplied with cocoa. The number of employees in the School Meals Service was 429.

(e) Milk-in-Schools Scheme

A minimum of a third of a pint of heat-treated milk or tuberculin tested milk from a source approved by the Medical Officer of Health was supplied free to those pupils attending the 208 grant-aided primary and secondary schools who desired it. In addition to this, milk was also supplied to 358 pupils attending the following independent schools in the County:-

Lochnagar, Blairmore, Linn Moor and Camphill Rudolph Steiner.

(f) National Survey of the Health and Development of Children

No request was made by the Joint Committee conducting the above survey to examine the 18 Survey children in this County during the year under review.

(g) Residential School Camps

The facilities which have been available for the past four years for Aberdeenshire pupils to attend residential school camps were again taken advantage of. From the period 28th February to 28th March, 1958, 345 pupils attended Belmont Camp, M_eigle. Favourable reports were received concerning the educational and social benefits the pupils derived from attendance at this camp.

(h) Health Education

A lecture tour organised by the Scottish Council for Health Education included the following schools:-

Alford, Badenscoth, Barthol Chapel, Boddam, Bridge of Don, Bucksburn, Cloverfield, Cults, Fetterangus, Kennay, King Edward, Kintore, Logie-Coldstone, Lumphanan, Millbank, Monquhitter, Monymusk, New Byth, New-Pitsligo, Old Deer, O'Neil Corse, Peterhead Academy, Peterhead North, Pitmedden, St. Combs, Strathdon, Strichen, Tarland, Torphins and Towie.

TABLE I

Total Number of Children examined at:-

(A) Systematic Examinations

Primary Schools	(Entrants	2152
	(Second age-group	2410
	(Third age-group	1045
Secondary Schools	(Third age-group	952
	(Fourth age-group	204
Total ...		6763
Nursery School		30
Special School		21
Age 7 Group (Visual acuity and hearing only)		2172
Grand Total ...		8986

(B) Other Examinations

Special Cases	267
Re-inspections by Medical Officers	3645
Total	3912

Number of children inspected at systematic examinations who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (Excluding uncleanliness and dental caries):-

Entrants	250
Second age-group	328
Third age-group	332
Secondary age-group	56
Total	966

Number and Percentage of Children in each group suffering from particular defects

[illegible]

TABLE II (Contd.)

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-group				Third Age-group				Fourth Age-group				All Ages			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	No. 1105	%	No. 1047	%	No. 1244	%	No. 1166	%	No. 993	%	No. 1044	%	No. 87	%	No. 117	%	No. 3429	%	No. 3334	%
9. Ears:																				
(a) Diseases -																				
Otorrhoea	1	0.09	6	0.5	5	0.4	1	0.08	3	0.3	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	9	0.2	8	0.2
Other	9	0.8	12	1.1	10	0.8	11	0.9	4	0.4	11	1.09	1	1.1	1	0.8	24	0.7	35	1.05
(b) Defective hearing -																				
Grade I	6	0.5	8	0.7	9	0.7	6	0.5	4	0.4	3	0.3	-	-	1	0.8	19	0.5	18	0.5
Grade IIa	3	0.2	1	0.09	7	0.5	5	0.4	5	0.5	3	0.3	1	1.1	-	-	16	0.4	9	0.2
Grade IIb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade III	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Speech:																				
Defective articulation	16	1.4	13	1.2	14	1.1	6	0.5	4	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	0.9	19	0.5
Stammering	6	0.5	3	0.2	9	0.7	5	0.4	10	1.0	-	-	1	1.1	-	-	26	0.7	8	0.2
11. Mental and Nervous condition:																				
(a) Backward	8	0.7	5	0.4	13	1.04	4	0.3	12	1.2	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	33	0.9	10	0.3
(b) Dull	2	0.1	-	-	7	0.5	-	-	9	0.9	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	18	0.5	1	0.03
(c) Mentally deficient (educable)	-	-	-	-	2	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	5	0.1	5	0.1
(d) Mentally deficient (ineducable)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	5	0.4	4	0.3	5	0.4	6	0.5	5	0.5	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	15	0.4	12	0.3
(f) Difficult behaviour	4	0.3	5	0.4	10	0.8	9	0.7	16	1.6	16	1.5	1	1.1	-	-	31	0.9	30	0.9
12. Circulatory system:																				

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-group				Third Age-group				Fourth Age-group				All ages			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	1105		1047		1244		1166		993		1044		87		117		3429		3334	
(1) Congenital (2) Acquired	6	0.5	4	0.3	5	0.4	4	0.3	5	0.5	1	0.1	1	1.1	1	0.8	17	0.4	10	0.3
(b) Functional	-	-	-	-	1	0.08	1	0.08	1	0.1	4	0.4	-	-	2	1.1	2	0.05	7	0.2
13. Lungs:	4	0.3	6	0.5	7	0.5	10	0.8	4	0.4	8	0.8	-	-	1	0.8	15	0.4	25	0.7
Chronic bronchitis	12	1.08	10	0.9	14	1.1	6	0.5	6	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	0.9	16	0.4
Suspected tuberculosis	6	0.5	4	0.3	1	0.08	6	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0.2	10	0.3
Other diseases	27	2.4	21	2.0	12	0.9	4	0.3	15	1.5	7	0.7	1	1.1	-	-	55	1.6	32	0.9
14. Deformities:	32	2.9	27	2.5	20	1.6	20	1.7	26	2.6	22	2.1	1	1.1	7	5.9	79	2.3	76	2.2
(a) Congenital (b) Acquired (Infantile paralysis)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.3	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	3	0.08	1	0.03
(c) Acquired (Probable rickets)	2	0.1	-	-	-	-	2	0.1	2	0.2	3	0.3	3	3.4	-	-	7	0.2	5	0.1
(d) Acquired (Other)	14	1.2	5	0.4	9	0.7	11	0.9	19	1.9	25	2.4	1	1.1	4	3.4	43	1.2	45	1.3
15. Infectious diseases	2	0.1	-	-	3	0.2	2	0.1	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	0.1	2	0.06
16. Other diseases or defects	52	4.7	29	2.7	34	2.7	37	3.1	38	3.8	36	3.5	1	1.1	11	9.4	125	3.6	113	3.3

TABLE III

Systematic Medical Examinations

Classification	Entrants		Second Age-group		Third Age-group		Fourth Age-group		All Ages	
	No. 2152	Percentage	No. 2410	Percentage	No. 1997	Percentage	No. 204	Percentage	No. 6763	Percentage
1. Children free from defects	1343	62.4	1650	68.5	1357	68.0	127	62.3	4477	66.2
2. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from: (a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses; or (b) Oral sepsis etc. (c) Both (a) and (b)	110 51 6	5.1 2.4 0.3	194 34 5	8.0 1.4 0.2	165 34 7	8.2 1.7 0.4	27 1 -	13.2 0.5 -	496 120 18	7.3 1.8 0.2
Total	167	7.8	233	9.6	206	10.3	28	13.7	634	9.3
3. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	354	16.4	269	11.2	206	10.3	25	12.3	854	12.6
4. Children with defect less remediable than defects in 2 or 3: (a) Where complete cure is considered possible (b) Where improvement only is considered possible	234 54	10.9 2.5	183 75	7.6 3.1	148 80	7.4 4.0	19 5	9.3 2.4	584 214	8.7 3.2
Total number of children examined	288 2152	13.4 100.0	258 2410	10.7 100.0	228 1997	11.4 100.0	24 204	11.7 100.0	798 6763	11.9 100.0

TABLE IV

Return of all exceptional children of School Age in the Area

Disability	At ordinary Schools	At Special schools or classes	At no school or Institution	Total
1. Blind	-	3	2	5
2. Partially sighted -				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	-	1	-	1
(b) Other conditions of the eye, e.g. cataract, ulceration, etc. which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in an ordinary school	-	-	1	1
3. Deaf -				
Grade I	366	-	-	366
Grade IIa	54	1	-	55
Grade IIb	-	6	-	6
Grade III	-	9	-	9
4. Defective Speech -				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special education- :al measures	165	96	-	261
(b) Stammering requiring special educational measures	55	38	-	93
5. Mentally defective (Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable - (I.Q. approx. 50 - 70)	56	64	10	130
(b) Ineducable - (I.Q. generally less than 50)	1	3	4	8
6. Epilepsy -				
(a) Mild and occasional	49	-	-	49
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	-	2	2	4
7. Physically defective - Children between 5 and 16 years				
(a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding glands)	2	-	-	2
(b) General Orthopaedic conditions	155	10	9	174
(c) Organic heart disease	126	3	2	131
(d) Other causes of ill-health	6	-	4	10
8. Multiple Defects -				
(a) Mentally defective and physically defective	1	10	5	16

TABLE V

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The number of children who were:-

(1) Inspected by the Dental Officers:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	1,089	14	1,103
6	1,096	18	1,114
7	1,290	15	1,305
8	1,293	17	1,310
9	1,254	13	1,267
10	1,226	8	1,234
11	1,290	13	1,303
12	1,098	19	1,117
13	1,154	13	1,167
14	1,064	7	1,071
15	435	4	439
16+	187	-	187
Totals	12,476	141	12,617

	<u>Systematic Examinations</u>	<u>Special and Emergency Cases</u>
(2) Found to require treatment	6,983	-
(2a) Number of children accepting treatment	3,164	-
(3) Actually treated by the School Dental Surgeons	2,916	141
(4) Number of attendances made by children for treatment	4,712	159
(5) Fillings:-		
(a) Permanent Teeth	3,304	9
(b) Temporary Teeth	64	-
(6) Extractions:-		
(a) Permanent Teeth	1,208	27
(b) Temporary Teeth	3,440	104
(7) Number of administrations of a general anaesthetic for extractions	-	-
(8) Other operations:-		
(a) Permanent Teeth	416	14
(b) Temporary Teeth	74	-
(9) Half-days devoted to inspection	214	-
Half-days devoted to treatment	931	-
(10) Number of children treated under private arrangements	3,812	-

SECTION C

Port Health Administration

There is nothing to report under this heading during the year 1958.

SECTION D

Food Supply

Food Poisoning

14 cases of food poisoning were reported during the year, all of these being of a sporadic nature and never involving more than one family. Although very often there was a considerable delay in notifying the condition, most of the cases were followed up, but no conclusive result as to probable source of infection was ever reached. The bulk of the cases were due to organisms of the salmonella group. All were mild in character and were treated at home.

SECTION E

Miscellaneous

(1) National Assistance Act, 1948

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, dealing with the compulsory removal of a person in need of care and attention.

(2) Work done under the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act, 1938

No Nursing Home was registered under the above Act during the year.

(3) Health Education

This has been dealt with under various other headings in this report.

Section F

General Sanitation

This section has been fully covered in the report of the County Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION II

A. COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Milk

During 1958, there were 442 registered dairies in the County and, of that number, 439 Designated Licences were held as follows:-

Certified	38
Tuberculin Tested ...	378
Pasteurised	2

1,823 samples of milk were taken; of these 1,502 were satisfactory and 321 were unsatisfactory. The following table shows the number of samples taken under each designation and subjected for bacteriological analyses:-

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised	56	9	65
Certified	143	26	169
Tuberculin Tested	1,295	282	1,577
Ordinary	8	4	12
T.T. Pasteurised	-	-	-

2 Designated Licences were suspended during the year.

During the year, the following improvements to dairy premises took place:-

Total Reconstructions ...	5
New Byres	-
Byre Extensions	8
Reconstruction of Byres	3
New Dairy Premises ...	2
Water Closets	2
Wash-hand basins	2
Other improvements ...	-

9 Biological samples were taken during the year.

The District Sanitary Inspectors carried out 645 inspections of dairy premises.

The total amount of food condemned was 4 tons, 3 cwts., 46 lbs.

Factories Act

No. of premises on register ...	890
No. of inspections carried out	490
No. of written notices	16

Particulars of the defects found were as follows:-

Want of cleanliness
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences
Ineffective drainage of floors.

Housing

The number of houses built was 176 - 160 Traditionals and 16 Agricultural Workers' Houses.

60 houses were erected by private enterprise.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952, Section 3

No./

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952, Section 3

No. of new houses erected ...	...	27
No. of visits paid ...	...	219

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Sections 7 and 9

No. of houses represented under Section 9 -	97
No. of houses represented under Section 7 -	7
No. of visits paid	- 215

Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954

20 visits were paid.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Part VII

No. of houses improved with aid of Grant -	226
No. of visits paid ...	... 2,338

Building Byelaws

No. of improvements carried out ...	981
No. of visits	3,963

Complaints

705 complaints were investigated.

Nuisances

539 nuisances were found to exist. The nuisances consisted principally of:-

Pollution of water supplies
Choked and unsatisfactory drainage
Sanitary defects
Smoke, dust, etc.
Lack of water supplies.

No. of visits paid - 371

Sanitary Accommodation

No. of w.cs. installed ...	459
No. of new bathrooms provided	460
No. of new sinks provided	439

Meat Inspection

Dyce Bacon Factory

No. of animals killed ...	...	198,289
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	...	717
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	...	8,148
No. of carcasses passed		189,424

Total weight of meat and offal condemned:-

171 tons, 7 cwt., - qrs., 9 lbs.

Fraserburgh Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed ...	...	16,599
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	...	181
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)	...	219
No. of carcasses passed	...	16,199

Total weight of meat and offal condemned:-

24 tons, 9 cwt., 3 qrs., 11 lbs.

Inverurie Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	...	...	...	17,327
No. of carcasses condemned (wholly)	...			353
No. of carcasses condemned (partially)				3,558
No. of carcasses passed	...	...	...	13,416

Weight of meat and offal condemned:-

45 tons, 10 cwt. 1 lb.

Turriff Slaughterhouse

No. of animals killed	2,505
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

Total weight of meat and offal condemned:-

10 tons, 9 cwt., 19 lbs.

Peterhead District

No. of animals killed	961
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Weight of meat and offal condemned:-

2 tons, 12 cwt.

Ellon District

No. of animals killed	653
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Weight of meat and offal condemned:-

1 ton, 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Water

206 new water supplies were installed during 1958. Samples were taken with the following results:-

Chemical

Satisfactory	-	185
Unsatisfactory		22

Bacteriological

Satisfactory	206
Unsatisfactory	138

No. of visits paid - 168

Drainage

14,655 yards of new drains were tested during the year. 596 drains were smoke-tested.

Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act, 1956

The number of samples taken was as follows:-

Formal

Satisfactory	...	...	76
Non-genuine	...	...	5
Convictions	...	...	1
Warnings	...	...	4

Informal/

Informal

Genuine	...	...	...	229
Non-genuine	...	...	...	23

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948

Number of improvements carried out to premises	...	5
Number of samples taken	...	75
Number of visits paid	...	285

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

No samples were taken during the year

Temporary Licences

No. of inspections for renewal of licences - 95

Cleansing

The year 1958 followed the same pattern of expansion which had been evident since the service began in 1949, and no major difficulties were experienced.

To meet the increased volume of work, the labour force was increased from 61 to 63, while the number of vehicles was reduced from 22 to 20. This was facilitated by the disposal of two spare vehicles in addition to two active spare vehicles which were replaced by two new B.M.C. diesel Special Purpose Vehicles. The fleet now comprises the following:-

Refuse Freighters:-

Two dual tip Karrier Diesels - 1957
Two Pendulum B.M.C. - 1958
Four side loading Austin Diesels - 1955
Three Albion Diesels - 1955
One Thornycroft Side Loading Diesel Vehicle - 1951
One Thornycroft Side Loading Petrol Vehicle - 1951
One Thornycroft Side Loading Petrol Vehicle - 1950
One Dennis Paxit - 1949 (Diesel)

Platform Vehicles

One Thornycroft Petrol Vehicle - 1954
One Thornycroft Petrol Vehicle - 1951

Vans

One Ford Thames Petrol Van - 1957
One Ford Thames Petrol Van - 1958

Excavator

One Muirhill Hydraulic Loader (Diesel) - 1958

One of the Thornycroft 1951 vehicles was converted by the installation of a Perkins diesel engine, bringing the total number of vehicles powered by units of this type to six. Reference was made in the report for 1957 to the benefits to be obtained from standardisation. Experience during the year under report confirms this, particularly in the case of engine units.

The approximate mileage covered by the cleansing fleet for the year 1958 amounts to 217,896 and the gallonage of diesel consumed is 12,368 gallons, and petrol consumed 3,674 gallons.

During the year, the Chaseside Hi-Lift Excavator was replaced by

a Muirhill Cardinal Hydraulic Loader and one year's experience of this vehicle proved that it was well suited to the type of work carried out by this service.

The van used by the foreman, Buchan area, was replaced by a new vehicle of lighter design, giving greater economy of operation.

During the year, five Special Scavenging Districts were brought into operation while others were extended to include Council Housing Schemes, etc. and in addition to this, the number of private contracts continued to rise regularly. The stage has been reached where additional employees will require to be added to the staff if the efficiency of the service is to be maintained. This matter is to receive the consideration of the Cleansing Sub-Committee. A further increase of wages was granted to the staff by the J.I.C. Which again adds to the cost of the service but it was gratifying that the rate remained as at 1957 - 1/8d. in the £1.

Public Conveniences

Owing to the Government's restriction on Capital Expenditure, no additional public conveniences were proceeded with during the year but it is hoped that these restrictions will be relaxed soon as requests for the provision of conveniences have been received from various quarters in the interval. Maintenance and repair costs, including caretaker's wages represent, however, a substantial burden on the Cleansing rate, occasionally out of proportion to the benefit received by the public from such accommodation. Action has been taken by the Police when possible but these premises continue to be the target of would-be wall artist, safe-breaker, etc.

Salvage of Waste

Unfortunately, the market for scrap metal was severely curtailed during the year, the effect being that recovery value of scrap fell from £3:17/6d. per ton to £2. per ton, and the allowance for haulage has been discontinued completely. Salvage of metal, therefore, became something of a liability and future scrap metal salvage operations will be limited only to removing tins from the refuse tips in order to permit better consolidation until such time as the market improves.

The waste paper market has been comparatively regular in demand and the price has been maintained at £7 . per ton. There is a prospect that a waste paper disposal contract can be arranged with Messrs. C. Davidson & Sons, Ltd., Mugiemoss Mills, Bucksburn, who are extending their production capacity. Such a contract will be of considerable help in view of the limited storage accommodation at the various cleansing depots. The tonnage of metal and paper respectively, with their values, is listed below.

Paper

<u>1949</u>		<u>1958</u>	
<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Value</u>
221	£ 622	369 tons, 4 cwts.	£2,400

Metal

10	£ 17	261 tons, 2½ cwts.	£1,084
----	------	--------------------	--------

B. SYNOPSIS OF REPORTS BY BURGH SANITARY INSPECTORS

PETERHEAD

Water Supply

During the year a new 18" trunk main was laid from Forehill to the junction of Marischal Street and Chapel Street and this measure has remedied the long standing lack of pressure felt in certain areas/

areas of the Burgh when water consumption was at its highest.

The supply of water itself was satisfactory and the reservoir at Forehill never fell below 27 million gallons.

Sewage Disposal

This undertaking has functioned throughout the year without complaint, although three of the sewer outfalls which were subjected to considerable pounding by the sea require to be repaired. No complaint of fouling the foreshore has arisen. 750 lineal yards of house and other drainage were laid during the year. All new drains were thoroughly examined and smoke-tested and the standard of workmanship was found to be very high.

Cleansing

The demand for this service continues to increase and it is not now possible to clear all bins from the kerbs by noon, and some reorganisation of the service may be necessary to overcome this difficulty. Much time which at present is wasted could be saved if householders and others used regulation bins instead of the varied collection of oil drums, tin boxes, etc. which are difficult to handle and which sometimes constitute a danger to the men who handle them.

Slaughterhouse

Additional cooling accommodation has been provided which brings the total hanging and cooling accommodation up to 200 carcasses. The old overhead weighing apparatus has been replaced by an up-to-date machine and another electric hoist has been provided. The throughput has been maintained at an average of 230 units per week throughout the year. The question of a shooting box has been considered and should the decision of the Council be to put this work in hand, the slaughterhouse will really be right up-to-date. Pig slaughtering is seasonal and never high in this area, although I find that when the number is higher than usual there is a bottleneck in the line caused by the lack of sufficient scalding water. This matter, however, is being looked into.

No complaints have been received during the year and the premises are kept in a clean and most satisfactory condition.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:-

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
10,232	33	9,985	1,248	£ 11,448:14:10d.

Carcasses and part carcasses weighing 14 tons, and offal weighing 23 tons were condemned during the year as unfit for human food.

Offensive Trades

No complaints were received during the year in connection with the business of Tripe and Gut cleaning carried on at the slaughterhouse.

The herring reduction plant on Greenhill has functioned very little during the year. The premises are kept in a clean condition and so far no complaints have arisen.

Factories and Workshops

There are 120 factories varying in type and size throughout the Burgh. No serious complaints have been received and close co-operation with H.M. Factories Inspector has been maintained throughout the year.

Sanitary/

Sanitary Accommodation

The provision of sanitary accommodation is not all that could be desired and although the situation is improving it is very gradual.

Burgh Police (Scotland) Act

Only a small number of complaints were received under the Act. Intimation and Notice had the desired effect in all cases.

Housing

Private building appears to be on the increase again, but the difficulty in obtaining sites has been holding up progress in this direction.

14 houses were completed and occupied during the year by the Town Council and this small number did very little to ease the housing shortage. 24 houses were under construction at Gadle Braes and building operations have started on the Longate scheme. Three other sites are scheduled to begin immediately, but delay in acquiring the ground has held these projects up.

Burial Grounds

The two burial grounds within the Burgh and one at Blackhouse are conducted and maintained in a very satisfactory manner.

Schools

The new primary school in Hope Street has been completed and the extension to the Academy is making good progress. The other schools are maintained very satisfactorily.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the Burgh.

Port Sanitary

Routine inspections were carried out during the year and no complaints were received.

Seven vessels arrived from foreign ports as follows:-

Holland	4
Germany	1
Russia	1
Denmark	1

Unsound Food

<u>Articles</u>	<u>Where Seized</u>	<u>Quantities or Weights</u>	<u>Reasons for Seizure</u>
Tomato Paste	Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd.	446	Decomposed
Beef	Various Shops	527 lbs.	do.
Fruit and Vegetables	do.	100 tins	do.
Peas and Beans	do.	37 tins	do.
Milk	do.	10 tins	do.
Fish	do.	6 tins	do.
Soup	do.	14 tins	do.
Fowls	Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd.	192 tins	do.
Potatoes	J. Strachan & Sons	46 cwts.	do.
Miscellaneous	Various Shops	20 tins	do.

FRASERBURGH

Water Supply

Rainfall/

Rainfall for the year, as measured at Fedderate Reservoir, was 35.61 inches, while the average rainfall over the past ten years has been 35.86 inches per annum. The reservoir remained full throughout the year with the incidence of rainfall during the months of May to September being well above average for the period. Hillhead source also maintained an ample water inflow and no difficulty was experienced regarding supplies available at the sources.

Samples were taken at intervals during the year from Fedderate and Hillhead distribution systems for bacteriological and chemical analysis and all reports showed satisfactory results.

During the year 100 yards of 4" main was laid in replacement of old mains which were no longer serviceable.

Drainage

The sewage system has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Four manholes in dilapidated condition were rebuilt.

181 choked drains in housing scheme property required to be rectified and 15 choked drains were cleared for private parties on repayment of cost.

Cleansing

Street cleansing is carried out on the "beat" system, the town being divided into eight districts. Domestic refuse collection is provided to all districts on alternate days, two motor vehicles being engaged and all work carried out by direct labour.

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Lochpots in close proximity to the Burgh. During the year work has been proceeding on closing down one section of the tip and opening a new area.

The salvage of waste paper continues to be carried out but in view of the recovery costs is limited to baling the collections from shops. The total despatched to mills during the year amounted to 59 tons, 19 cwt., 1 qr. at an average price received of £6. per ton.

Nuisances

During the year 46 nuisances were dealt with, chiefly choked drains and insanitary premises, and 7 written notices were served.

Housing

The building of traditional houses in stone construction has continued and during the year under review 50 houses were completed, making a total completed since the end of the war of 803 houses. At 31st December there were also 41 houses under construction and 30 contracted for but not started.

Applications on the local authority's lists for housing accommodation number 542, of which 223 are from families living in sublets or furnished rooms and 71 from applicants living in condemned houses.

Ten houses were demolished during the year and a further seven houses were closed as unfit for human habitation.

Private building has made little progress during the year and only 3 houses were completed, while only one was under construction at the year end.

Applications for grants for the improvement of houses were approved in respect of 2 houses and 5 certificates were issued for completed improvements.

Factories/

Factories and Workshops

There are 151 factories and workshops within the Burgh, including 46 fish processing premises. Fifteen cases were dealt with in respect of sanitary defects chiefly lack of cleanliness, defective drainage and accumulations of rubbish and one written notice was served. There is one outworker registered.

Offensive Trades

One business of tripe boiler is carried on in the Burgh and is operated in satisfactory manner.

Little trouble has been experienced during the past year from obnoxious odours from the Herrinb By-Products factory situated just outwith the Burgh boundary.

TURRIFF

Water Supply

The rainfall during the year was above normal. Consequently the gravity supply from Barnyards was able to cope with the demands of the town, except for a short period from the end of May to August when pumping from the low level supply operated. The total number of hours pumping was only 620. Bacteriological samples were taken at the source on two occasions and were satisfactory.

60 yards 3" and 80 yards 1½" asbestos water mains were laid in extensions to existing.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The drainage system is on the whole in good order and few complaints are dealt with.

Negotiations continued throughout the year with the Department of Health and the Rivers Pollution Board regarding the new Disposal Works. These centred round the phasing of the work and the possibility of Government Grant being obtained. The actual design of the proposed work is agreed on.

Scavenging and Cleansing

A twice weekly collection of refuse is made throughout the town and collection of salvage and garden refuse once weekly. The disposal of this is by tipping on waste ground and is on the whole quite satisfactory.

70 tons, 2 quarters wastepaper was collected and sold during the year.

One new Karrier Vantam vehicle is on order.

Food Inspection

The following items of tinned foods, etc. were examined and seized, all with the owners consent.

- 150 lbs. Ulster Fry
- 30 lbs. Corned Beef
- 4 lbs. Luncheon Meat
- 11 lbs. Chopped Pork
- 12 lbs. Cooked Pork
- 19½ lbs. Tinned Ham.

Factories

74 inspections were made but no written notices issued. Any defects are usually put right upon verbal intimation.

Housing/

Housing

Contracts for 8 three-apartment houses on gap sites in Fife Street were let during the year. 4 only of these were under construction in December.

13 three-apartment houses at St. Congan's Site were completed and occupied and finished this Scheme.

2 four-apartment private houses were built and occupied.

4 improvements to dwellinghouses were carried out under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, Part VII and Grants paid.

Inspections of housing accommodation were continued, and 23 closing orders were recommended and 12 demolition orders recommended by the Council, and of these 10 have been demolished, all Council property.

19 houses were recommended to be improved by the owners. No action has been taken with these so far.

Action on a further 18 houses reported on is meantime being considered.

HUNTLY

Water Supply

The Burgh was fortunate in having a sufficient and wholesome water supply to meet the demands of the community with the source of supply continuing to come from the springs and twenty acre catchment area situated on the farm of Wellheads.

The maintenance of the water mains throughout the Burgh received regular attention, and flushing of certain sections was carried out to cleanse the pipes of silt which collects during the year. The concrete holding tanks at Craighead also received their annual clean in the spring.

Sewerage System and Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works continued to be maintained at its high level of efficiency, and regular samples of the effluent leaving the Works revealed satisfactory results. The Disposal Works are now well-known as a Model Scheme, and frequent visits were made during the year by engineers and representatives of other Burghs, who find themselves in the similar plight of being forced to instal Works at a large capital expenditure, which is a crippling financial blow to any small Burgh. Huntly, however, can be well satisfied that they are obtaining full value for their money, as the Sewage Works are considered by higher authorities to be one of the finest in Scotland.

The testing of all new house drains and inspections of alterations on existing drainage systems were carried out by this department. The workmanship, on inspection, was always found to be of the highest standard, and the former complaint of "defective or choked drain" is slowly disappearing from the Sanitary Inspector's diary.

Offensive Trades and Slaughterhouses

No offensive trades were registered within the Burgh during the year 1958.

Food Shops and Food Hygiene

Aberdeen County Sanitary Inspector's Department carried out the duties of food inspection within the town, while this department was active in encouraging the improvement of food premises, and also the hygienic handling of foodstuffs. Progress is being made in this field/

field but there still remains a great deal of work to be accomplished, and it is hoped that the long awaited Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations, 1959, will be of valuable assistance in raising the standard of hygienic handling and storage of food to a level compatible with this atomic age.

The public, however, are becoming more inclined to demand a high standard in the service of foodstuffs. The advent of wrapped commodities, and the appearance of the "deep freeze" displaying food commodities are only small examples of what the future holds in store for us. The more the public realise that the shop assistant handling food and the articles of food can be a vehicle of infection unless the laws of hygiene are maintained at a high level, the greater will be the demand for this desirable standard.

Housing

The housing problem was a subject which received a large amount of the Department's attention throughout the year.

At the beginning of 1958 the following housing schemes were under construction:-

Torry 1957 Development	...	3-aprt. houses	...	6 houses
West Park Street 1957 Development	...	3-aprt. houses	...	10 houses
Upperkirkgate Lane	...	2-aprt. houses	...	2 houses
15-17 Princes Street - Introduction of bathroom and kitchens	...	...	...	<u>2 houses.</u>
Total	-			<u>20 houses</u>

Scavenging and Cleansing

This vital public service was well maintained during the year with due regard to economy and to the convenience of the community to whom the service is given. This is a department which is growing annually with the ever-increasing number of houses being built and the construction of new streets in the housing areas. The various refuse collections were organised with a view to having all the household buckets emptied before lunchtime, as it is felt that it is undesirable to be emptying bins in the streets in the afternoons, especially during summer months. The afternoons were devoted to the collection of waste paper and shop refuse, while garden refuse was lifted during the summer months. The latter was a most popular collection and had to be restricted to one receptacle per household as the service could not be completed in one afternoon but, despite the control, extra assistance was required during the spring and autumn.

Street cleansing is a very important task in this department and with fifty-five streets to sweep and be maintained at a very high level of cleanliness, particularly during the summer, and the work of snow-clearing and sanding during the winter, the street orderlies were fully occupied. Additional labour is also required at certain periods of the year, especially after heavy snowfalls. Consideration has been given to the mechanical method of street sweeping, but it has still to be proved that it would be economical and while the days of the scavenger may be limited, the general public do like to see "their man, the scaffie" on the daily round.

The refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the dump at Corvichen Quarry and constant vigilance was kept for rat infestation. No complaints were received regarding the tip, which was maintained in good order during the year.

Salvage

This/

This branch of the cleansing department was well organised throughout the year and a total of 24 tons, 11 cwts. 1 qr. of waste paper was collected, and after converting into bales, was sold to the Northern Waste Paper Co. Ltd. One ton of scrap metal was also collected and sold, resulting in a total income of £155:7/6d. being realised. A larger income would have been achieved if the Northern Waste Paper Co. Ltd. could have accepted more waste paper but, owing to their large stocks in hand, only a limited amount was allowed for delivery at the Works, and a considerable amount of surplus paper had to be burned at the tip at Corvichen. It is hoped, however, that the demand for waste paper will increase and that a greater income will be reported in future years.

The purpose of the independent waste paper collection, however, it not only to show a profit, but to separate the paper from the other household and shop refuse. If the waste paper was collected along with hot ashes, there is every possibility of fires occurring at the refuse tip, which would take many hours to control, and even on the cleansing vehicle with no doubt disastrous results.

Public Conveniences

The four public conveniences situated within the town were well maintained during the year. Huntly being a favourite halt for 'bus tours, constant supervision was carried out, especially during the summer, to ensure that the conveniences were kept at a high standard of cleanliness.

Public Health Intimations

During the course of the year, one hundred and seventy-eight visits were made to investigate complaints which had been reported to this department, but no serious nuisances were discovered, although the causes of smoke nuisances in two instances, were investigated, but with the willing co-operation of the owners involved, the nuisances were controlled.

Factories and Workshops

During the course of the year, regular inspections were carried out on the premises on the register and no serious defects were discovered. The requests for the painting of bakehouses and minor repairs were carried out with the full co-operation of the owners concerned, and the standard of hygiene in the workshops was always found to be satisfactory.

BALLATER

Water Supply

This remained satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality throughout the year.

Cleansing

A rat infestation was experienced at the Burgh refuse tip and deratisation measures were instituted and maintained.

Housing

No building, either municipal or private, took place in the Burgh during the year.

Factories Act

Within the Burgh this Act applies chiefly to garages, joiners' shops, bakeries, etc. No action was required to be taken under this heading. Similarly no action was required in respect of statutory nuisances.

Tents/

Tents, Vans and Sheds

The levelling of the caravan site was completed and electric light installed in the nearby conveniences.

ROSEHEARTY

Water Supply

A satisfactory supply was maintained throughout the year but it was found necessary to have a section of the water mains scraped. The Council has, however, been advised by the County Engineer to consider a programme of replacement in the near future.

Drainage

The sewage system was sufficient for all normal purposes with no flooding during the year. The school architect and the Town Clerk outlined a proposed scheme of drainage for the Playing Field adjoining the school which the Council has since agreed is quite satisfactory.

Salvage

No salvage scheme is operated in the burgh.

Cleansing

The cleansing is carried out by a contractor who collects household refuse thrice weekly and garden refuse once a week during the period March to November. The refuse is disposed of at the municipal tip and is supervised by the Burgh workmen; periodical inspections are made by the Public Health Committee.

Complaints have been received about loose paper blowing from the tip and steps are being taken to alleviate this nuisance.

Housing

The list of applicants for houses now contains 33 names and in view of this the Council have agreed to resume house building. A scheme for eight two-apartment houses is now being considered as a first instalment.

